

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY AT
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

June 5, 2000

IN RE:

**APPLICATION OF NASHVILLE GAS COMPANY,
A DIVISION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, INC. FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF ITS
RATES AND CHARGES, THE APPROVAL OF
REVISED SERVICE REGULATIONS**

Docket No. 99-00994

**AGREED ORDER PERMITTING QUESTIONS FROM
THE AUTHORITY STAFF DURING THE HEARING**

This matter is before the Pre-Hearing Officer for entry of an Agreed Order to permit the limited participation of the Authority Staff at the hearing in this proceeding scheduled for June 5, 2000.

The Parties each agree that the Authority Staff will be permitted to ask questions of witnesses during the hearing. Procedurally, the Parties agree that the Authority Staff's questions of a witness will follow the Parties' direct and cross-examination of a witness and will precede re-direct examination of a witness. Finally, the Parties agree that the Authority Staff will not become or be deemed a Party of any sort by its participation at the hearing.

The Pre-Hearing Officer finds and concludes that:

1. There are highly technical issues in this proceeding from which the Directors would benefit by the limited participation of the Authority Staff in the hearing;
2. The Parties agree that, to the extent that the Staff refrains from questioning which tends to suggest the espousal of one Party's position over the other, the participation of the Authority Staff does not remove them from the role of advisor;

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3. The participation in the questioning of witnesses from the Parties does not create an inference that the Authority Staff has become a Party to this proceeding;

4. The Authority Staff shall only inquire about information that will enable them to better advise the Authority; and

5. The Staff's questions of a witness will follow the Parties' direct and cross-examination of a witness and will precede re-direct examination of a witness.

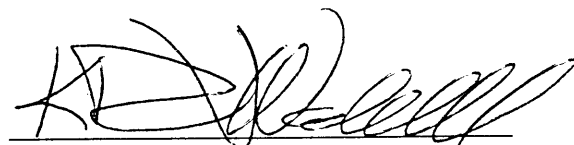
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

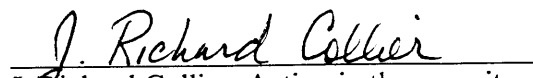
1. Members of the Staff of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority shall be allowed to pose questions directly to the witnesses in this case proceeding;

2. Questions from the Authority Staff will follow the Parties' direct and cross-examination of a witness and will precede re-direct examination of a witness;

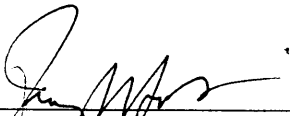
3. The Parties have agreed that the posing of questions does not remove the Authority Staff from the role of advisor, and in no way creates the inference that the Authority Staff has become a Party to the proceeding or has acted outside of its purely advisory capacity; and

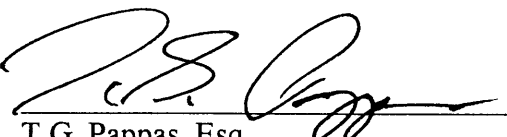
4. The Authority Staff shall only pose questions which will better enable them to advise the Directors.

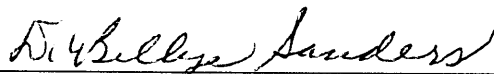

K. David Waddell, Executive Secretary

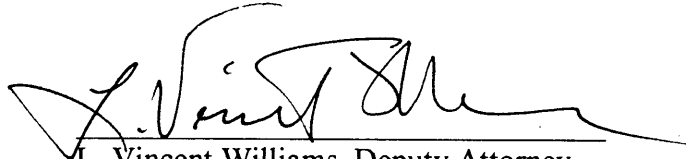

J. Richard Collier, Acting in the capacity
of Pre-Hearing Officer


The following parties signify their agreement to the entry of this Order:



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